

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: Anchorage****Project Title:**

Anchorage - Mountain Air Drive / Hillside Drive Extension

State Funding Requested: \$ 4,500,000
One-Time Need**House District: Anchorage Areawide (17-32)****Brief Project Description:**

Construction of a collector street in the Bear Valley to provide emergency access and escape, and relieve existing and growing traffic congestion in the most rapidly growing area of Anchorage.

Funding Plan:**Total Cost of Project: \$4,900,000**Funding Secured

Amount FY

Other Pending Requests

Amount FY

Anticipated Future Need

Amount FY

There is no other funding needed

*Explanation of Other Funds:***Detailed Project Description and Justification:**

The highest priority need on the rapidly growing Anchorage Hillside is the Mountain Air Drive/Hillside Drive extension south from Rabbit Creek Road at Bear Valley Elementary School. Significant transportation safety and connectivity concerns have been raised regarding the Anchorage Hillside. This connection is a key recommendation of the Hillside Sub-Area Transportation study designed to relieve existing and growing traffic and address current safety concerns in the area. The problem is so severe that MOA is considering a moratorium on further development in the area, until this connector road is established. Expanding the collector street network will improve access and circulation in a rapidly developing area and will enhance emergency vehicle access and evacuation egress in the event of wildfires. The AFD has also indicated that construction of this road will alleviate the need for an additional Hillside fire substation.

Project is located outside the Anchorage Roads and Service Drainage Area, local bond funds are not an option. For maintenance support the land owner, and the local Rural Road Service Area Boards members are in contact and there is a mutual agreement the area could be service with street maintenance service by the South Goldenview RRSA. This is the #1 Priority of the South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area.

Project Timeline:

MOA will move forward with project as soon as funding is appropriated.

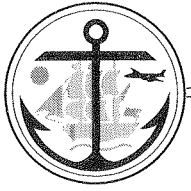
Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

RRSA - South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Contact Name: Jim Lamson
Phone Number: 343-8120
Address: MOA
Email: lamsonjl@muni.org

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? ☒ Yes ☐ No



Municipality of Anchorage

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Mayor Mark Begich

Fire Department

March 12, 2008

State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Subject: Transportation Projects – Hillside Transportation Safety and Connectivity and the Goldenview Drive Safety Upgrade – Rabbit Creek Road to Bulgaria Drive

Dear Members of the Legislature:

The Anchorage Fire Department strongly supports two priority Transportation Projects – the Hillside Transportation Safety and Connectivity grant request for \$5.8 million and the Goldenview Drive Safety Upgrade – Rabbit Creek Road to Bulgaria Drive, primarily for the connectivity this project portends. You may recall that the lack of egress in this area has been of primary concern to the Fire Department for a number of years and we are most gratified to see some movement toward mitigation in this area.

As a secondary benefit, this project provides an unexpected bonus to the public as it will allow for a much faster response time into “upper” Goldenview than currently exists. The possibility of building another fire station in that area has been under consideration due to the dramatic increase in residential population. This project would most certainly defer the need to build a fire station, thereby saving the \$6 million it would cost to build the station and an additional \$1.5 million for yearly operations and maintenance.

Thank you for your time, energy and consideration of these two extremely important issues of public safety. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

Very sincerely,



Craig P. Goodrich
Fire Chief

Community, Security, Prosperity

2008 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**MUNICIPAL PRIORITY ISSUES****Capital Budget****Other Priority Transportation Projects****PROJECT NAME:** HILLSIDE TRANSPORTATION SAFETY AND CONNECTIVITY**PROJECT TYPE:** Safety**GRANT REQUEST:** \$5,800,000**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:**

This project will fund two new collector street road connections on the Anchorage Hillside. The highest priority connection is the Mountain Air Drive/Hillside Drive extension south from Rabbit Creek Road at Bear Valley Elementary. The second priority is an extension of Goldenview Drive south from Bulgaria Drive to Potter Valley Road. This grant is expected to fully fund the Mountain Air Drive/Hillside Drive extension and to fund preliminary engineering on the Goldenview Drive extension. A budget for the Goldenview Drive extension project will be developed during preliminary engineering and future Legislative Programs will include a grant request for additional design and construction funding.

COMMENTS:

The project has not started.

JUSTIFICATION:

Significant transportation safety and connectivity concerns have been raised regarding the Anchorage Hillside. Construction of these missing collector connectors are key elements of addressing these needs. Expanding the collector street network will improve access and circulation in a rapidly developing area and will enhance emergency vehicle access and evacuation egress in the event of wildfires.

	(000s)						
FUNDING FORECAST	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	Total
9825 - State Grant Revenue - Direct	5,800	0	0	0	0	0	5,800
Project Total	5,800	0	0	0	0	0	5,800

Legislative District(s)**House:** District 32-Chugach State Park**Community Council(s):** Bear Valley, Rabbit Creek

CONTACT PERSON: Lamson, Jim, PME Capital Projects Coordinator; Project Mgmt & Engineering; 343-8120;
lamsonjl@muni.org

*\$4.9m = Mountain Air/Hillside Dr
South from Rabbit Creek Rd to Bear Valley E.*

\$900K = Goldenview Ex preliminary engineering

2007 STATE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM
MUNICIPAL PRIORITY ISSUES

Capital Budget

Other Priority Transportation Capital Projects

ISSUE/PROJECT NAME: Mountain Air Dr/Hillside Dr Extension
ISSUE/IMPROVEMENT TYPE: Community Enhancement
STATE GRANT REQUEST: \$4,500,000
LOCAL MATCH: \$0

900K-1.1M
dwjn

ISSUE/PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

This project will construct a missing collector link serving the Bear Valley area. This area is at high risk for fire danger and an additional entrance/exit is needed for public safety. Improvements are expected to include pavement, ditches, pedestrian facilities, street lighting, and traffic calming. This project is a priority for the neighborhood, the community council, and safety officials.

The Municipality of Anchorage has been working with Hillside residents and land owners to improve street connectivity in the area south of Rabbit Creek Road and east of Goldenview Drive. The creation of a draft Hillside Sub-Area Transportation Study has been completed. The purpose of the study is to plan ahead for needed street and pedestrian connectivity through vacant residential lands prior to individual subdivision activity. A key recommendation of the plan is construction of Mountain Air Drive and Hillside Drive into this growing residential area. This connection will provide needed relief to the existing and growing traffic on Goldenview Drive. It will provide a secondary access to the developing 550 acres of residential property and a much needed alternative access in the event of an emergency such as a wildfire.

Since this project is located outside the Anchorage Roads and Service Drainage Area (ARDSA), local bond funds are not an option. Knowing maintenance responsibility would be important to the success of securing support, the land owner and the local Limited Road Service Area (LRSA) Board members are in contact with each other and there is mutual agreement the area could be served with street maintenance service by the South Goldenview LRSA. The Municipality's Traffic and Project Management & Engineering Departments have spoken with the key land owner about the need and possible legislative support for the road project.

This request is for a grant to the Municipality of Anchorage. This grant request would fully fund this project.

Legislative District (s):

Community Council: Bear Valley

House: 32

Senate: P

CONTACT PERSON: Howard C. Holtan, Municipal Engineer, 343-8109

Susanne Comellas, Past Chair Rabbit Creek Community Council (907) 830-5288

Lori Davey, Chair South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area (907) 830-0379

1. Mountain Air Drive / Hillside Drive Extension - \$4,900,000 Sec. 8 / Pg 7

Currently all traffic is routed to Goldenview Drive from the upper half of Goldenview. This extension will provide a new access route all the way from Romania to Shangri La and out to Rabbit Creek without having to impact S. Goldenview. This will alleviate pressure on S. Goldenview and improve the failing traffic grade due to congestion and accidents. A Traffic light at Rabbit Creek and S. Goldenview to route and calm traffic is not possible due to the grade of Rabbit Creek as it intersects Goldenview. Collector roads are the solution to continued expected growth for this area.

2. South Goldenview LRSA Road and Drainage- \$250,000 Sec. 9/ Pg 75

This project will construct road and drainage improvements in the South Goldenview LRSA, which is south of Rabbit Creek Road and on either side of Goldenview Drive. Existing roadways are dirt/gravel with no lighting. The drainage is inadequate leading to flooding, glaciations, and pothole problems for residents. The requested grant will fund implementation of the Hillside District Plan's drainage Plan for the Rabbit Creek and Survivor Creek Drainages.

3. Bluebell Drive Reconstruction - \$660,000 Sec. 9 / Pg 23

This project will correct the very severe grade of Bluebell Drive as it intersects South Goldenview. This road grade has been the culprit for several accidents involving vehicles sliding down Bluebell and colliding into cars passing on S. Goldenview. The pending development past Bluebell on South Goldenview make this a very urgent request with nearly 1000 new homes slated in the 5 years to drive by Bluebell on Goldenview including 450 senior housing units and a new elementary school. MOA already has engineering plans drawn up for the project.

4. Goldenview Drive Upgrade / Extension – Rabbit Creek Rd to Potter Valley Rd - \$1,700,000 Sec. 6 / Pg 8

This project will upgrade and extend this collector street that serves Goldenview Middle School and a widespread residential area covering over two square miles. This existing roadway is a narrow two-lane, strip-paved roadway with no pedestrian facilities, and inadequate drainage and lighting. Improvements are expected to include pavement, drainage, pedestrian facilities, lighting, traffic calming, and landscaping. This grant will fund preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, public involvement, and design effort. Extending Goldenview Dr. south to Potter Valley Rd is essential for traffic circulation and emergency / safety access in this area. This request is a priority to the LRSA, the Community Councils, and the neighborhoods. Construction cost estimate will be developed in the design phase

5. Upgrade Access from S, end of Goldenview to Potter Valley Road to Year-Round Access \$400,000 Sec 8 / Pg 7

Currently the access road between Potter Valley Road and South Goldenview is summer fire access only. There is substantial new development on track to occur in the Valley and they require to access / egress points. The access available now is through Potter Valley. The request is to upgrade the back access and then South Goldenview RRSA can adopt the road for maintenance.

6. Study Upgrade Options for Goldenview and Rabbit Creek Intersection \$900,000 Sec 9 / Pg 40

This intersection currently experiences failing levels at peak traffic levels. State of Alaska and two Road Service Areas share the responsibility for maintaining the roads. State DOT has examined the intersection, but has no ideas for measurable improvements. This grant would fund the coordinated effort to solve the long term issues. The main challenge to be solved is the severe slope of Rabbit Creek as it approaches S. Goldenview. The answer is to lessen the slope to put a street light in or create some other alternative with vacant land on 3 corners of the intersection.

The South Goldenview Rural Road Service Area Board of Directors allocated \$500,000 of the 2008 budget towards capital improvements in the neighborhood roads. The overall goal is to improve the drainage, road surfaces to a hard surface area for all roads in the next 10 years. The capital improvements are prioritized to gain the greatest reductions on maintenance expenses. For example, it costs 8X more \$ to rip ice than it costs to plow roads. Glaciations improvements pay major dividends for long term improvements.

Desperate Housewives of South Goldenview – 3rd Tour of Juneau

Lori Davey has served on the Road Service Area board for the last 6 years and has watched our area explode in development. To plan for the future growth of the Anchorage Hillside, Lori is also serving on the Community Advisory Committee of the Hillside District Plan.

Susanne Comellas is the past Chair of the Rabbit Creek Community Council and has served on the PTA at Bear Valley Elementary school.

This is our third trip in two years to Juneau to represent the collective needs for the area and we are here to explain why it is important and necessary for the State of Alaska to fund these major road improvements just like the State has in other parts of Alaska.

The current infrastructure is not capable of supporting the demand for growth of the area. South Goldenview is outside of the Anchorage Area Roads and Drainage Service Area and we have no means for building new road and major improvements - other than State grants.

- The demands for new housing on the Anchorage Hillside has resulted in the South Goldenview area absorbing 51% of the new housing growth since 1991 for the entire Hillside Area, and are the recipients of 74% of the current plans in process for development today. (see attached map)
- S. Goldenview is a dead end road - making it the largest Cul De Sac in Anchorage.
- Rabbit Creek road is too steep at the Goldenview intersection to accommodate a traffic light - so our best bet for traffic management is through 2 collector roads. 1 from the upper area to Rabbit Creek through Mountain Aire road and the other off the bottom at the end of S. Goldenview to Potter Valley Road
- We have a new middle school and are slated to receive a new elementary school.
- All roads except for Goldenview cannot accommodate school buses; therefore parents have to take kids to and from school and this create a lot of extra vehicles on the road in the morning coupled with people going to work.
- There are no pedestrian facilities and very limited lighting on S. Goldenview. Children and other pedestrians have no where to safely walk or ride their bike to school without being in the road.
- The grade of Bluebell is too steep for even the most capable winter-equipped vehicles. I slid down Bluebell on 1/31/02 and hit a school bus. This is the day I decided to become involved in our roads. This grade must be fixed before we continue development for the area - and especially before 1300 senior citizens and all the new elementary school children have to pass by it to and from home and school.
- The drainage problems have become unmanageable as development continues and more water is directed to the roads. Water and Hillside roads make a very bad combination. The best way to protect our road investments is to effectively drain the water to the natural water sheds. Our area is especially hydric and can easily be evidenced by the presence of Potters Marsh at the bottom.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like further documentation to support these projects. I can provide pictures, statistics or anything else you may want.